

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Florence Waterhouse Brandt

"It's my home. I always still feel that Kōloa's my home. After they built in there, it took me a long time to look on that side of the street. I'd always look the other way when I passed because I hated to see the old driveway with the royal palms, that was all gone and just houses built in there."

Florence Waterhouse Brandt, the second of three children of Dr. Alfred Herbert Waterhouse and Mabel Palmer Waterhouse, was born April 16, 1911 in Kōloa. Dr. Waterhouse was for many years physician for Kōloa Plantation. He was owner of a large parcel of land on which stood the home and yard Florence grew up around, as well as most of the stores and businesses serving Kōloa's residents. The area today has been redeveloped for homes and many of the store buildings have been restored to house businesses catering mainly to tourists.

Florence attended an English-standard school in Līhue until the eighth grade and Kaua'i High for one year until moving to Pasadena, California, and then to Albion, Michigan to complete her high school education. In 1928 she attended Pomona College, but dropped out in 1931. She married Maitland Dease that same year.

Florence worked for the Kōloa post office for a few years, then later worked for Kaua'i Motors.

She later married Isaac Brandt, and now resides in Līhue after her home in Po'ipū was destroyed by Hurricane Iwa in 1982.

Tape No. 15-61-1-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Florence Waterhouse Brandt (FB)

December 1, 1987

Līhu'e, Kaua'i

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mrs. Florence Waterhouse Brandt on December 1, 1987 at her home in Līhu'e. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Mrs. Brandt, can we start by having you tell me something about your great-grandfather, Mr. [Dr.] J[ames] W. Smith?

FB: Yes. He was a doctor in Connecticut. But he studied in Boston and then, he heard that a group of missionaries were going out to Hawai'i. They called it the Sandwich Islands in those days. And so he went and applied 'cause he thought that would be exciting to go out to Hawai'i--I mean, to the Sandwich Islands. They asked him if he was married and he said, no, he wasn't.

And they said, "Well, we'll take unmarried women, but we won't take unmarried men. So, you'd have to be married if you went."

This ship that he wanted to go on was leaving within a week. And so, there had been a girl that he'd been courting, a Miss Knapp, but she wasn't at home. And so the sister [Melicent Knapp] was at home--she'd gone to Florida, or something for a visit--and so then he proposed to the sister. And the sister accepted. And so then they got married and within a week, why, they left for this long trip around the Horn [i.e., Cape Horn] in order to come to Hawai'i.

And then they came to Kōloa, that's where they built the first mission house, they built the first church. There'd been other doctors before he came. He wasn't the first one. There was another one [Dr. Thomas Lafon]. He was just prior to Great-grandfather Smith.

But because he'd come with this group of missionaries, why, people thought that he was a missionary, which he very firmly denied. He said, "I'm NOT a missionary, I'm a doctor." [Dr. Smith was later ordained to the ministry in 1854.]

He [once] made a wild ride from Kōloa to Hanalei where a young man

[Robert Crichton (Cockrane) Wyllie, nephew of Robert Crichton Wyllie] had tried to commit suicide [on February 4, 1866] and then changed his mind in the middle of it. And he had slit his throat. And so they had horses all along the route, every ten miles, where he [Dr. Smith] could change horses, 'cause then he was just racing the horse, you know. And he got over there and the young man was still alive, but it was before they knew about blood transfusions, and he wasn't able to save him, although the young man had regretted after he did it, he regretted very much. He wanted to live. Well, that bothered him [Dr. Smith] a great deal. He left a diary and he spent page after page trying to think of, "What could I have done to save his life?"

When you first read his diary, you had the impression that all his patients died, because that's the only ones that he recorded. It bothered him so much that he recorded them. He didn't tell about all the many he'd saved, you know. But we really felt like that (laughs) it looked like all his patients died. He must have been a terrible doctor. (Laughs)

WN: About what year did he come here?

FB: Well, he came [to Kōloa] in '42, 1842.

WN: You said, well, he claimed that he wasn't a missionary . . .

FB: Yeah.

WN: . . . but he was a medical doctor.

FB: Yes.

WN: But he was a Christian?

FB: Oh, yes. But I mean he came with them, they needed a doctor, you see. But they said the doctors that came had to be married men because many of the missionaries were just single women, and so they said they had to have a doctor but it had to be a married man. And that's why he married the first one that (chuckles) accepted him.

WN: Why did they accept unmarried women and not unmarried men?

FB: Well, because, I don't know, women were more religious, I guess, than men (chuckles). And, men, I don't know, have a reputation, I think, in the old days, of being promiscuous or, you know. (Chuckles) Anyway, they didn't trust the men like they would trust the unmarried women. So, that was the way it was in those days.

WN: So his first destination in the Sandwich Islands was Kōloa?

FB: Yes, yes, that's where they needed a doctor. So they sent him here. And then he, after, in his old age, they needed somebody to preach in the church there, and he had learned Hawaiian and he spoke. And

everybody out here in those days spoke Hawaiian, that was the universal language. And he learned to speak Hawaiian. But I don't know how much more I can tell you about him.

WN: What church were they affiliated with?

FB: That was the Congregational church. That's what the board of missions was, Congregational. Yeah, it's called the Hawaiian Board of Missions.

WN: I see. Do you know where Dr. Smith lived?

FB: Oh, yes. In Kōloa he built--their first house was an adobe house. I think that's still standing, part of Rev. [C. C.] Cortezan's house, the back part of it was the old adobe house. But then, all that front part you see now, it's all torn down, but there used to be a row of royal palms going--a driveway--going in, and then it came out the other gate. There were two gates. And that was the girls' school. And his wife, Mrs. [Melicent] Knapp [Smith], started this school for missionary girls. [The school established by Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith is described in Kōloa School History as a boarding school for Hawaiian girls.]

And then how my grandfather [William Waterhouse] came into the picture was that there was--[Rev. Daniel] Dole was also a missionary, but he had a school for boys that was down where the [Kaua'i] Mortuary is now, was Dole School for Boys. [However, in Kōloa School History, Dole's school is identified as a boarding school for missionary children of either sex.] He built the church [Kōloa Church in 1859], I think, James Smith [pastor of Kōloa Church from 1854 to 1869], and it had a belfry. And so my grandmother [Melicent Philena Smith Waterhouse], his daughter--he had quite a few children--would sit up on the belfry.

And Grandfather Waterhouse--my grandfather--was a very bad boy. He'd get kicked out of school wherever he went. (Chuckles) So he'd always run home and tell his father that this teacher was terrible and the teacher had persecuted him or something, and so his father would go down. He had these sideburns. And he marched down to the school and say, "You've been mistreating my son and I won't allow him to go here anymore." It's just that they were about to kick him out and he knew it so that's why he ran and told his father that. But he was just the opposite of my grandmother [Melicent], you see. He married her [in 1876], but he was just a rascal from the word go. (Chuckles)

WN: Now your grandmother, who was . . .

FB: That's Smith's.

WN: . . . Dr. James Smith's daughter . . .

FB: Yeah.

WN: . . . Melicent Philena Smith.

FB: Yes.

WN: And she married William Waterhouse.

FB: That's right, yeah.

WN: Okay. Why don't you tell me something about the Waterhouse family? Your great-grandfather, John Thomas Waterhouse [Sr.]?

FB: Yes. Well, he (chuckles) was born in England but he had a girl [Eleanor Dickinson] that he liked. And he saw her letting a man out the front door. And so he was very jealous, so he left and ran away, and ran away to America. And he went to New York. And I think it was somebody that was in the fur business. It was one of the Vanderbilts, or (Astors). Anyway, he went into fur trading, or something, with him for a little while.

And then he got a letter from home saying that it was just her cousin she was letting out the door. She wasn't entertaining any other man. So then he came back. And then he said--(chuckles) he wrote this letter home, we had a copy of that--something about, "I had nothing to do with. There was a girl, yes, that I met in America, but we just kissed twenty or thirty times." Nothing, you know, nothing serious, just kissed so many times. (Chuckles) Anyway, he wanted to come back, and so he did. And he said, "Oh yes, and furthermore, I couldn't marry a foreigner," he said. Americans were foreigners. So that's when he went back and married E. D. [Eleanor Dickinson]. And then they had a whole flock of kids, my grandfather being the youngest.

WN: William Waterhouse.

FB: William, yeah. He was naughty, naughty. And he was the one that the king wanted to adopt, you know. He was out with the king's fishermen. That was Kamehameha the Fifth [Lot Kamehameha, who reigned between 1863 and 1872]. The fourth [Alexander Liholiho] was a very handsome man, and that's the one that was married to Queen Emma, I think. The fifth was his [older] brother, but he was a big, fat, really nothing handsome like the first one.

Grandpa stood up and told the fishermen to stop fighting or he would tell the king. And he didn't know the king, but he just said that. And so the king heard about it, the fishermen told him, so the king asked to have him, you know, to bring him to the king. And he was at his summer palace in Waikiki at that time. And he was sitting on these piles of mats, lau hala mats, and they were waving kahilis over his head to keep the flies off him. And he was a great huge fat man, and, oh, Grandpa was petrified. He was scared to death. And then he said, "Tell me the story again."

So Grandpa told it again. And he sent his men out and brought a

little outrigger canoe, just big enough for one child, you know, to give him. So then he went home and everybody thought that was the end of it, but about two or three days later, he sent his couriers to John Thomas again, and said, "The king wants to adopt your son. He has no heir and he wants to adopt him."

And John Thomas said, "Well, that is a great honor, but he is my youngest son and I can't part with him."

But Grandpa heard them, and he thought that he was going to be given to the king. And he ran and hid under the bed. And we used to tease him saying, "If you hadn't been such a scaredy-cat, why, we might have been royalty. But you ran and hid under the bed, so." (Chuckles)

WN: (Chuckles) How did William Waterhouse come into contact with King Kamehameha the Fifth in the first place?

FB: Well, it was because he was out with the king's fishermen, you see. They [the fishermen] lived near the ocean. So, he was just a little kid playing on the beach and then he saw the fishermen going out, and I guess he asked if he could go and they'd say, "Sure, come along." So they took him out. And so he'd go with them regularly 'cause he loved the boats and he loved the ocean, so he went out with them. And then it was when they were quarreling with the heir apparent's fishermen that he did that, so.

WN: Where were they living at the time? The Waterhouses.

FB: They were living up in Nu'uaniu. I know he said, when Kamehameha the Fourth--that was the handsome one--yeah, when they had a baby [in 1858], [Kamehameha IV] and his wife. The little boy [died in 1862 when he] was four years old. [Kamehameha IV] died [in 1863] of a broken heart because many of the royalty, because they intermarried so much, they didn't have [many] children. Some of them had, but very few of them had their own children. [But] this was his own son. My grandfather said that when [the king's son] was born, why, the British colony bought a baby carriage, big wicker baby carriage, and they tied it with ribbons and he was one of the children that pulled it up the hill to the summer palace up there in Nu'uaniu. The big palace was down on--you know where King and Beretania [Streets], I think there.

WN: Washington Place.

FB: Yes. I thought Washington Place was the governor's mansion, but . . .

WN: That was [once] Lili'uokalani's home.

FB: That's right, when she was---but she was the end of the reign. But the palace was--they've just redone it, you know. They really tried to refurnish it with getting as many as they could of the old

original things that had been sold and scattered and so on. Put it back in the palace to make it as much as possible as it was during the royalty.

WN: The story that you just told me about your grandfather being almost adopted by . . .

FB: Yes.

WN: . . . King Kamehameha the Fifth . . .

FB: Yeah.

WN: . . . is it documented anywhere? Or is it a story that he told you?

FB: No, that's a story that---well, it is, but it's not--it's just a privately printed little pamphlet, you see. Every one of his children, he had nine children, and each of them got one. But our copy went out with the hurricane [Hurricane Iwa of 1982]. So, that's why we don't have it anymore and we also had his diary that he wrote--just picked and poked on the typewriter--and I had that, and he told all about his childhood and then also when they sent him to England and being at Buckhurst. But that's all gone now. I think, I could, possibly from one of the other relatives, get a copy of his personal diary, if you'd be interested in it.

WN: That would be interesting, yes.

FB: Fine. I'll do that.

WN: Okay, thank you.

FB: Yeah. I'll see how fast I can get it because--now, this is your thesis or something that you're doing?

WN: Well, it's a research project.

FB: Research project, yeah. Well, I can get a hold of that.

WN: Well, it can be in January. That would be next year.

FB: Yes, yes. Fine.

WN: Okay, I'll keep in touch with you on that.

FB: Good, okay. And then I'll---did you give me your card? I think you did, last time.

WN: Yeah, I'll give you another one.

FB: Okay, so I can be sure and send it to you.

WN: Great. John Thomas Waterhouse, [Sr.], your great-grandfather, what

kind of work was he doing in Honolulu?

FB: Well, he was an importer. I know he had his own ships. And he used to bring in goods from England. He brought stuff from England and sold it in Hawai'i. And there was a building that was there until fairly recently that still had his name on it, Waterhouse Importers or something, right down on Queen Street. And I know that he brought in, 'cause all of the family had china from England and it was, you know, they'd inherited it from him. I mean, he had sold to his brothers and sisters, and nephews and nieces, as well as the general public. And then he had a retail store as well as this import building where he brought in his goods that he took off his ships and would store them there. That was his business as far as I know.

WN: Now, did his son, William Waterhouse, carry on this business?

FB: No. No.

The same John Thomas went the first time on the railroad across the country. Anyway, as he got on---I know that the mail used to go to Mexico before it went to California in those days. It went by way of Mexico. And (chuckles) it seemed roundabout.

(Laughter)

WN: Must have taken ages. (Chuckles)

FB: Yes. (Chuckles). But then when that railroad was built, why, he took that, 'cause he saved a lot of time by picking up a shipment in New York than from taking it from Mexico or Hawai'i. Because in those days, before the [Panama] Canal was built, they'd have to go around the Horn. And if they could get up there and then cross the country, then from New York to England was short compared to Hawai'i to England, especially if you had to go around the Horn. So he was in that business, importing business.

WN: How did your grandfather---well, how did your grandfather, William Waterhouse, who was, as you said, a rascal . . .

FB: Yes. (Chuckles)

WN: . . . ever get married or hook up with . . .

FB: Oh, that.

WN: . . . [Melicent] Philena Smith, who was the daughter of a missionary doctor? (Chuckles)

FB: Yeah. Well, that was there on Kaua'i, 'cause he went to the Dole School for Boys. They had tried him in every school and he got kicked out of what used to be--I mean what eventually became Punahou. And then they sent him to an Episcopal school and they

sent him to all the schools out here, and he was kicked out of all of them. Then they sent him to England, finally. He went on a ship and he was terribly seasick for the first few weeks. They sent him with a big hamper of food, but the sailors said, you know, when he was sick, why, there's no sense letting this food go to waste, so let's eat it. So by the time he got well, there was nothing left but salt pork (chuckles) so he had to live on that. But he got over being seasick. And, (pause) you'll have to ask me the questions because I . . .

WN: Right, yeah.

FB: . . . my mind wanders.

WN: He was sent to all kinds of schools, he got sent . . .

FB: Yes.

WM: . . . to England . . .

FB: Yes.

WN: . . . and he came back here?

FB: Oh, yes. And he came back. You see, when his father was on the train, this cross-country train, it broke down in a place called Cedar Rapids. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And so they were stuck there for several days while they were trying to fix the tracks. And so while he was there, he walked around this little town, and he thought it was a cute little town or something, so he bought a city block over there. It had a hotel, and a theater, and a store, I guess, but anyway it was a whole city block in Cedar Rapids. And he lived there for quite a while. His father, I mean, this is John Thomas [Waterhouse, Sr.], John Thomas was the one that stopped in this town and he bought it.

WN: Oh.

FB: Yeah.

WN: Not your---so your great-grandfather . . .

FB: Not William.

WN: . . . went to Cedar Rapids.

FB: Yes, well, he went through it, you see, and he saw the town. So then he bought it, but then came back out here [Kōloa]. But [by the time] Willie got married--William--got married, why, he'd given the older boys the--you know, the British were old-country type, where the eldest son inherited everything, and most of everything. And then the youngest son, nothing.

WN: William was the youngest?

FB: And Willie was the youngest son. But, he was John Thomas' pet because John Thomas had been sort of a (chuckles) weird one, too. Something about Grandpa's naughtiness, you know, I think appealed to him so he gave Grandpa this city block that he'd bought. So that was in Cedar Rapids and so my father and two or three of the oldest children in his family were born in Cedar Rapids. But there was a fire and the whole block burned down. So, anyway, he [William Waterhouse] lived in California from that time on. And he was out here [Kōloa], he came and went, you know, 'cause my father was out here, and he'd come out and stay with him.

WN: So, after your grandfather got married and moved to Cedar Rapids, they never really came back to Kōloa for a long period of time?

FB: No. They came back to visit, because you see, his parents and her parents were here.

WN: Well, that's very interesting. That brings me back to my original question, which was, how did your grandmother, Melicent [Philena] Smith, meet and marry William Waterhouse? Do you know that?

FB: Yes. Yes. Well . . .

WN: Well, William Waterhouse was at Dole School for Boys in Kōloa.

FB: Yeah, then she'd [Melicent Philena Smith] go up into the bell tower of the [Kōloa] Church--she could look right over the grounds, the playground of the Dole School for Boys. And she used to wave her handkerchief at--at least that's Grandpa's story--she waved her handkerchief at him. And (chuckles), anyway . . .

WN: Where was the church located?

FB: . . . they were very young. Well, the church is still there, it's been rebuilt. I guess the original one was. . . . Well, it's so remodeled that you don't recognize it. 'Cause that, it used to be brown, and now they've got a white church there.

WN: Oh, that was the church?

FB: Yeah, that was the church that great-grandfather built. [In 1859, a new Kōloa Church was erected under the leadership of James W. Smith, who was the pastor of the church at that time.]

WN: I see. So your grandmother, Melicent [Philena] Smith, married your grandfather, William Waterhouse?

FB: Yes. And as you say, that was quite a difference (chuckles) because she was missionary stock and he was naughty boy Waterhouse. (Laughs)

WN: Do you know if there were any disapprovals of the marriage, or anything like that?

FB: No, I don't think so. No, I think they were happy all the way around, I mean both sides. I think they were glad that Willie found (chuckles) somebody that they hoped would reform him. And she did, to a certain extent. Because he used to have his hot toddies, and whatever, you know, . . .

WN: Hot what?

FB: . . . his drinks.

WN: Oh.

FB: Hot toddies. And . . .

WN: How do you spell that?

FB: T-O-D-D-Y or I-E. I don't know. Toddy. But, they, of course, were strict. No drinking. So he had to stop drinking and I don't think he drank very much. 'Cause they were really quite young when they were married. I was amazed when I saw these pictures of them. He was blonde and, of course, when I knew him he was almost bald and gray. So I didn't know what he looked like when he was--but he had blue eyes. He was blonde and blue-eyed, and Grandma was hazel-eyed and had brown hair, dark hair. But they had--let's see, Dad [Alfred H[erbert] Waterhouse] was the oldest, then Lawrence, then Paul, then Gerald, and then the three girls, and the two youngest. Yeah, Glen and Bob. So that was nine children.

WN: Your father was the oldest?

FB: Yes. And then my Uncle Bob was the youngest and my brother said he seemed more like a older brother than he did an uncle. And I know Dad and Uncle Bob used to say they were distant relatives because one was the oldest and the other was the youngest.

(Laughter)

FB: He [Bob Waterhouse] was a dentist. And . . .

WN: How many years apart were they?

FB: Oh, well, I know Dad was in Princeton [University] when he was born. So they were quite a few---and then between one of them, there was a little girl that died, Juliet. Dad said he can remember. . . . So she was born after he was born, because he could remember seeing her in the coffin, this little white baby.

WN: I'm wondering if you know the answer to this question. How many brothers and sisters did your grandmother, Melicent Philena Smith, have?

FB: Yeah. Oh, she had, let's see, the oldest one was W. O. Smith.

WN: W. O.?

FB: Yes. William Owen Smith. And he was the attorney general during Lili'uokalani's time. [W. O. Smith became attorney general in 1893 under the provisional government.] He was the oldest [son], then [Jared Knapp Smith followed by] Fred--Alfred Smith. He [Fred] married a strong-willed woman and they were in charge of Lunalilo Home, which was for old Hawaiians. It was given by Bernice Pauahi Bishop, I think. Whoever endowed Lunalilo Home, but it was endowed place for elderly Hawaiians. And they managed that for a great many years. And then Fred had just two children. One was Alice and she never married, she was a schoolteacher. And then the son, Raymond, and he married a Paris, May Paris. The Parises had a big ranch up there on the Big Island.

WN: In Kona?

FB: Yes. And he [Raymond Smith] had five children and they used to come down and stay with us summers, or they'd usually go up to the ranch. They'd take turns going to the ranch, and then when they didn't, why, then they'd come down and stay with us. And then I know my sister [Marjorie Waterhouse] and I stayed with them the first time we'd been home alone without somebody taking us. They put us on the steamer and then Raymond met us there in Honolulu. They had a summer place out at Pearl City. And, oh, my, we thought it was so exciting, being in the big city. And I know we bought hats while we were there (chuckles) and Raymond said we couldn't see out of them. No, I guess Mother [Mabel Palmer Waterhouse] bought them for us, yeah, before we left. Because we were going to Honolulu, so we'd have to have hats. And they came down like this so you couldn't see out from under them. You know, you'd have to hold your head way up to see where you were going. (Chuckles) And they let us stay there one whole summer, I know we stayed with them. And we had a lot of fun.

The Dillinghams had a place just beyond the Paris' beach house. This was Raymond Smith that took us there, but it belonged to his wife's parents. I know we just had a rowboat, but the Dillinghams had a putt-putt [i.e., a motorboat], you know. And so they'd go whizzing past us and we would be rowing. And then there was going to be a yacht race, and Uncle Raymond--Raymond Smith--was on the crew for Dillingham. Dillingham knew he was a good sailor, so he had him crew. And so we were going to watch them come in at the end. And we just had a rowboat, and they were laughing at us because they went whizzing past us, but then their engine wouldn't start. (Chuckles) And so we ended up rowing, and got there to see the end of the race and they didn't.

WN: So Raymond was Fred's son.

FB: Fred's son. Yeah.

WN: Okay. So there was William Owen Smith, "Fred," Alfred Smith [Alfred H. Smith], and your grandmother, Melicent Philena Smith, and was there anyone else?

FB: Yeah, oh, yes. There was, [besides] W. O. [William Owen Smith] and Fred and the girls, there was Emma. I think Emma was the oldest in the family. She was older than Uncle Will, yeah. Emma was the oldest, then [Charlotte, and then] the boys [William, Jared, and Fred], and then Grandma [Melicent Philena Smith] was next to the youngest. [Anna] Juliet was the youngest girl. [The second girl was named] Charlotte, but they called her Lottie and she married Judge [Alfred S.] Hartwell in Honolulu [in 1872]. She was a Hartwell. There was . . .

WN: Okay, and then your grandfather's side, William Waterhouse, how many were there?

FB: In my father's family?

WN: Your grandfather's.

FB: Oh, my grandfather's family.

WN: William Waterhouse.

FB: Willie. Well, there was Mary, who became a Rice [by marrying William Hyde Rice in 1872]. Sister Mary, he talked about all the time. But the older boys, there was, of course, a John. There was always a John. John, and then . . .

WN: Hold on, let me turn the tape over, okay?

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: So we got to . . .

FB: Well, I'm not sure that I can give you them in order.

WN: Just give me a ballpark--about how many brothers and sisters that he had.

FB: Oh, I think about five [six, three boys and three girls]. I remember mostly boys, but I think there was. . . . Well, Mary was his sister. She was the youngest girl and he [William Waterhouse] was the youngest boy. But there was quite a distance between them because there was another William that died, and. . . . But Grandpa was the only one that was born out here. I used to think Aunt Mary was born here and they said no. She was born in England or Tasmania, or somewhere. [Mary Waterhouse Rice was born in Hobart,

Tasmania.]

WN: Did all his brothers and sisters---were they all raised here?

FB: Yes.

WN: Okay. So your grandparents, Melicent [Philena] Smith and William Waterhouse, got married, then they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and there their oldest son who was your father, [Alfred] Herbert Waterhouse, was born.

FB: That's right, yeah.

WN: Okay. Why don't you tell me something about your father? From the time he was born, what you remember [hearing].

FB: Oh. Well, he was born, and then the next one--I remember him telling me this--the next one was Lawrence, and he was kind of a dumbbell. He was not smart and so that they kept Dad back in school so that he would have to wait for Lawrence to catch up. And so he [Lawrence] was the only one of those children that never went to college. All of them, even the girls, and it was unusual, in those days, for girls to go to college. I know even in my time, why, girls went to finishing school. They went to Castallea in San Francisco. They just went there for a year after high school, and then come back and get married. Girls were supposed to marry young. And the boys, they sent the boys to college, but they didn't send the girls.

WN: So, do you know your father's birth date?

FB: Oh, yes. It was August 12, [1877]. Mother was [born on January 26, 1882]. She was five years younger than Dad. She was born five years after Dad. And then they got married in '07, 1907, and my brother [William A. Waterhouse] was born '09. Yeah, that was right. But he [father] graduated from (pause) Princeton in '02, I think. Then he went to Rush Medical . . .

WN: In Chicago.

FB: Yeah.

WN: Rush Medical School?

FB: Yeah.

WN: And then from there, where did he go?

FB: Then he interned in Joliet--is that in Illinois?

WN: Mm hmm [yes].

FB: Yeah. And then the first place he had, there was an opening for a

doctor on this Navajo reservation in Arizona, so he went out there. But he was married to Mother then. So, he must have---yes, as soon as he finished interning, then he came back to California and married my mother. And they'd been engaged for a long, long time. I know my father said he didn't believe in long engagements. And that's because they had been engaged for so long before they could get married. I mean, he couldn't marry her until he finished school. So they were married in Irvine, near Covina in California. Grandpa had a ranch there. He had a ranch there first, then he had another ranch in Ventura after he sold the one in Irvine.

WN: Well, when did your parents get married?

FB: They were married in '07.

WN: And when did your father and mother come to Kōloa?

FB: Well, they came right away. Dad had already been out here. There was a epidemic of some kind and so Aunt Emma was still living out here and she wrote and told him that here's an opportunity. And she said also that the old house, on the land that he had had, this Smith land--that there was an opening right there in the town of Kōloa where they had lived as a family long ago.

WN: You mean his mother's [natal home] . . .

FB: Yeah, James W. Smith. And so he [Dr. Alfred H. Waterhouse] went out. So then he first started working for Kōloa Plantation which at that time--well, I mean it was for many years--was Amfac. And then they also needed a doctor at McBryde, and so he became that doctor, too. McBryde was under A&B [Alexander & Baldwin Inc.].

Then he was appointed government physician. So he'd inspect the schools, the children for eye problems and hair problems. He had to report if they had nits or something, (chuckles) I remember these cards on all these kids. Or tuberculosis, you know, he just inspected the schoolchildren. But he also, if any ship that didn't stop on O'ahu first, freighters, would come to Port Allen, he'd have to go out and inspect the freighter that came in, see if anybody had plague or anything like that. And one time, the only person that was sick was the monkey that they had brought with them from, oh, somewhere in South America, it had stopped before it came out here. And the monkey had gotten on the stove. They were boiling potatoes, or something, and he picked one up and it was hot and he tossed it this way and then the stove was hot, so the monkey burned his feet and his hands, too, so he had to dress the monkey's hands. (Chuckles)

Dad, his father loved ships, but he, the minute he'd set foot off the pier, he'd get seasick. And going out in the small boat [from] Port Allen, 'cause that was before they could pull in anchor onshore, they had to anchor offshore, just like they did in Kōloa [Landing]. And Kōloa was the first port on Kaua'i. [Kōloa was

designated as the port of entry for Kaua'i around 1855.] Somebody tried to say Nāwiliwili was, but Kōloa was the main port. So he had to go out in a small boat [to the ship]. Boy, when he had to go out and inspect ships, he knew he was going to be seasick before he got to the ship. But then he was all right, I mean once he lost his marbles, or whatever you call it. (Chuckles) He upchucked. (Chuckles)

WN: So your father came here about 1906, 1907?

FB: Yeah.

WN: Did he stay with his grandparents, the Smiths?

FB: No, [his uncle] Mr. [Joseph] Farley. Mr. Farley had moved into the family house and that's why Dad had to live in the one that's a little church now. I mean, they call it the [Kōloa] Missionary Church [today], or something. But that was the guest house. They'd built that for [Dr.] Jared [Smith], and he was the one that was shot by (the brother and boyfriend) of a leper [on September 27, 1897]. 'Cause they thought if they killed the doctor, why, the girl wouldn't have to go to Moloka'i. [As government physician, it was Dr. Smith's responsibility to identify leprosy cases.] And that was before they were allowing them to go with family. And so, they thought if they killed the doctor, and they tried twice to get him. I mean, they set fire to his cane thinking he'd come out to help put out the fire . . .

WN: This is Jared Smith?

FB: Jared.

WN: He was a doctor, too?

FB: Yes, he was a doctor, too. And he was the one that was shot and killed. Then, finally, they rode into the yard and they called, "Doctor! Doctor!" and he stepped out, and they shot him. And that's how Aunt [Anna] Juliet [Smith] married Mr. Farley because Mr. Farley was kind of an overseer for the sugarcane. [Joseph K. Farley had been the manager of J. K. Smith & Co., a sugarcane business, since 1886.] He later became a tax collector, but he was, at that time, looking after Jared's cane. And so, it left [Anna] Juliet alone in the house with Mr. Farley, and so that was improper in those days, (chuckles) so she married him, then. But apparently, he'd worshipped her from afar for a long time but she wasn't interested at all in him. But she married him because she--I mean, she was forced to, if she was going to stay there. She was quite a horsewoman, though. I know that our old barn had all her sidesaddles. There were, oh, eight, ten of them. All still hanging on racks where she had them. And she had her old riding habits still in the house when we moved in. Mr. Farley, when she [his wife] died [in 1900], he closed up that room and although Kimi [Yanagawa] could go in once a week and dust, it was locked and

nobody else could go in. And he kept it locked until after his death [in 1920], when we moved in there. And then my mother moved into that room. But . . .

WN: So that Smith house was first occupied by James W. Smith and his family . . .

FB: Yes.

WN: . . . and then it was occupied by . . .

FB: Well, it was a school, then. It was a [boarding] school for [Hawaiian] girls. Yeah, they lived there, but they had all these girls living there, too. And there was a picture, oh, there's quite a few copies of that around--where they were, it showed part of the house. That house was added on to and added on to, the old house. Well, it was a school, and then the Smiths' place and then he [Jared Smith] had an office added on. His room was downstairs. So he stepped out and they shot him. But [Anna] Juliet held his head in her arms as he was dying. He died almost instantly, but . . .

WN: Jared.

FB: Yeah. Then, of course, they . . .

WN: This was in Kōloa?

FB: Yeah.

WN: He got shot.

FB: Yes. But his brother was living in Honolulu, you know, W[illiam] O[wen] Smith, the lawyer. And so he came down. It was his business of finding out who did it, see. They heard the horses, but they didn't know. And then, they finally figured out the only enemy he had was the family of this leper girl. Well, right away that night, the policeman probably knew and--because they didn't tell the Smiths or something, but they suspected who it was, and they went down and they [the suspects] were both in bed. It was two of them that came. One was the (pause) brother and one was the girl's boyfriend or something. Anyway, the two of them came and shot him. And they were in bed. They [the police] went out and looked at the horses and they were dripping wet. Because they had run all the way back.

WN: What was the name of the school that your great-grandfather helped start? The girls' school? Was there a name for that school?

FB: No, I think it was called just Smith School for Girls, I think.

WN: Where was it--well, you said it was located by the [Kaua'i] Mortuary, where the mortuary is now . . .

FB: No, that was the Dole School for Boys. Yeah, that was the Dole

School. This was right across from the church, you see . . .

WN: The White Church [i.e., Kōloa Church]?

FB: Yeah, but it was---there was an orchard [on the Waterhouse Estate]. See, all that's been built up now, because the old orchard is completely gone. There's just one tree left and that's in our [family] graveyard up there. But all the rest of [the land was] sold and subdivided into lots. And it's all full of houses, now. But that used to be all orchard. And that was right across from the church.

WN: So that the house that's now the [Kōloa] Missionary Church where your father lived . . .

FB: Yes.

WN: . . . was actually the Smiths' cottage at one time?

FB: Yes, that was built to be Jared's house. The night he was shot, he was writing to his fiancée back in, I think, I guess she lived in California, I don't know. And I think she had already sent her furniture out. They were to be married, and he was writing to her that night when he was shot. Then she married somebody named Fowler, 'cause after, we would be visiting in Pasadena, she'd always invite us out there because she had been Jared's first love.

But that was built for him. And so when Dad came, he had to stay in there 'cause Mr. Farley had the other house and he was given the right to live there for his lifetime. He couldn't inherit it . . .

WN: By then your great-grandfather had passed away?

FB: Yes, they had passed away by the time Dad came out. [Dr. James Smith died in 1887 and Melicent Knapp Smith died in 1891.] And it was just Mr. Farley. And they [FB's parents] stayed with him, till they got the place furnished and fixed up enough to move in, and then that was the first place they lived on Kaua'i, was in the cottage that's now the [Kōloa Missionary] Church. And then the old house has been torn down, completely.

WN: The big house?

FB: Yeah, the big house. I think, the minister lives in what was part of the old kitchen.

WN: You mean the minister of this new [Kōloa] Missionary Church?

FB: Yeah, yeah. Because when they tore the old house down, they got the lumber from it. And the old house, even though it was very old, it had no termites in it. And they found out that it's because they had floated the lumber to shore in the water, you see, and it got all saturated with salt water and that prevented termites. I mean,

it had, maybe some dry rot, or something like that, but there was no termites in the old house. All the [other] old houses were all termite-riddled.

WN: How did your father acquire all of that land in Kōloa?

FB: Well, he was one of twenty-two grandchildren. Yeah. But he had, on the side--all the doctors in those days didn't make enough money to really live on, and so they had cane and pineapples, I know Dad had both cane and pineapples up Pānau.

WN: That was your dad's land?

FB: Yes, he owned Pānau then, but he sold it in order to buy [out] all those other grandchildren. They'd rather have the money than a little piece of land. Because, you see, it extended--oh, I know all the uptown, that was all part of Smith Estate. And there was some cabbage patches behind, I know the Tanimotos lived there. And so it went on down, and then he had this beach cottage down that he'd built for the children at the seashore, he said.

WN: Down in Po'ipū.

FB: Well, it's on the Kukui'ula side. It's very shortly after you turn off [Po'ipū Road] toward Kukui'ula it would be on the left-hand side, on the ocean side; they were right on the ocean. And that old house that he built was still standing and it had been used right up to the time of Iwa [1982], the hurricane. Then it went out, that's the last I saw of it. It was already down in the water when I looked back.

WN: So the land that's called today, Waterhouse Estate, which that Old Kōloa Town tourist area is located, was once the Smith Estate?

FB: Yes.

WN: And he [James W. Smith] had twenty-two grandchildren, one of whom was your father . . .

FB: That's right.

WN: . . . and then your father owned Pānau so . . .

FB: So he bought out the others [i.e., the Smith Estate lands]. He sold his cane and pineapples . . .

WN: He sold Pānau?

FB: He sold it, and he bought up from each of the other ones. And they'd rather have the money than little piece of that land, so, they were all willing to sell and did, at that time.

WN: Do you know how big each piece was?

FB: No. I mean, it'd have to be divided up twenty-two ways. I don't know how much actual land.

WN: Why don't we just---I tell you what. Can we stop here? And what I want to do is come back another time and pick up from when you were born and start your life . . .

FB: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape Nos. 15-65-2-87 and 15-66-2-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Florence Waterhouse Brandt (FB)

December 8, 1987

Līhu'e, Kaua'i

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Mrs. Florence Waterhouse Brandt on December 8, 1987 at her home in Līhu'e, Kaua'i. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Something about your dad. What kind of a man was your dad?

FB: Well, I can tell you what he was like as a father. The maids always used to tell us if we were naughty, that if we didn't be good, that they would tell my father. They always said, "We'll tell the doctor on you." And so we used to be afraid, you know, but they never did tell. (Chuckles) And he was stern and strict, but I know the only time that--I don't think he ever spanked my sister--but one time my brother, he was teasing me, and he went like this at me, and I don't know why that just made me mad, 'cause he was . . .

WN: He rubbed your cheek?

FB: Yeah, he'd just say, "Hah, hah," you know, like that.

And so I said, "Damn you," and just as my father came by.

So, he said, "We must never say that."

And so he'd have to punish me. And so he (chuckles) when he spanked, he bit his tongue; he'd go, like this. And so I started yelling before he even hit me. And that made him not hit so hard because I'd scared him, you know, I was yelling.

But he was fun. We liked to go with him when he'd go to make his calls to 'Ele'ele Hospital. Why, we'd wait for him in the car or if there were any children in the hospital, we'd make scrapbooks for them, and we'd take them in to visit the children that were in the hospital. But, otherwise, we just sat in the car and waited till he came out. And then he'd stop at 'Ele'ele Store--sometimes to telephone or sometimes for something--but he usually bought cookies when he was in there and he'd give it to us. But we'd watch, and if he didn't have anything in his hand, why, then our faces would drop

(laughs) he didn't have any cookies for us.

Well, these are just things I jotted down. I know that when he spanked my brother, he'd take a stick or something and he'd spank him hard. But we girls--and as I say, he never spanked my sister, it was just me.

WN: Why was that? How different were you from your sister?

FB: Well, she was the youngest and she was cute and I was (laughs). I could show you a picture of the three of us. My brother looks sad and longfaced, and I was a tomboy, I used to run--I mean, climb trees and things like that. And then, of course, we'd run and go and we'd hide out in the old orchard, and nobody can find us. Well, they didn't look very hard, but, the [maids], Haru and Fuji, had like a big dinner bell, and so when we were wanted, why, they'd go out the back--or when it was meal time--they'd ring the big bell, and we'd come in.

Well, I know my little niece--you know, for children he would talk down to them. When she came, of course, he knew who she was, but he'd say, "What's your name, little girl?"

And she'd say, "Leona May Waterhouse, dumbbell." (Chuckles) She knew he knew her name and so she called him dumbbell.

And it didn't make him mad, he just laughed. He was telling us what she said, and he said, "I deserved it, because she knew I knew what her name was."

(Laughter)

WN: Did he relate to patients differently from how he related to you?

FB: Yes. He loved kids. But with us, he was very strict and stern. And he told me afterwards--I mean, when we grew up--that he loved his grandchildren more than his own children, because he felt the responsibility of being a father. He felt that he had to be stern. I guess his father was stern. And so he had to be firm and spank us. He played with his grandchildren, but he didn't play with us. He was . . .

(WN adjusts FB's microphone.)

FB: Yeah, because he was the father, he felt that he had to discipline us and be stern with us, but with his grandchildren, he just enjoyed them and he treated them like he did his little patients, the children of his patients. He would play with them and talk to them. He had a bald head, and so for a while, he'd let his hair on one side grow longer to try to cover up his bald spot. But then he finally realized it was getting too big to cover up, so he cut off the extra hair, and he had a little bit in front. And I remember this little child, some little patient, saying, "Oh, doctor, doctor!"

You get hair! You get hair!" And that's because when he cut it off, why, you could see a few little hairs growing, and this little child thought that he was growing new hair, you know.

(Laughter)

FB: So he said, "Oh, you get hair, you get hair." (Laughs)

But he could always laugh at himself. I mean, he'd tell us things that he had done. Like--I think I told you this before--that when I had gone over to Kalāheo, and I was driving on my way home and I saw this big boulder that had rolled down onto the road. And so I went way on the side to get past it. But coming back, I saw somebody stuck inside the--you know, had tried to go between the boulder and the hillside and was stuck in there. And I was telling that at the table at lunch, and my father laughed, and he said, "That was I, I was that." (Laughs) I didn't know who it was, I just saw a car stuck in there, but I said, "Some stupid fool had tried to get between the boulder and the--"

(Laughter)

WN: How tall was your father?

FB: He was five foot ten. And my brother was short, he was five [foot] six. And Dad kept saying, "Well, you know, girls get tall sooner than boys do, and so you'll get tall." But he never did. He stayed short. (Laughs)

WN: How different was your father from his father? And how similar?

FB: Well, my grandfather [William Waterhouse] was. . . . He tried to Jew everybody down. When they saw him coming at Kaua'i Motors, why, they'd always jump the price, when he wanted to buy a car or something. Then they told me at Kaua'i Motors that he always--they still lost money on him, (chuckles) because he always kept saying, no, no, he wasn't going to pay that much.

WN: Always out for the bargain.

FB: Yes, that's what he was. And my father was just the opposite. And I think it was because of Grandpa that he tried to be the other way. And so he'd give things away. He'd always--like I said, when he sold his chickens, why, they offered him a certain amount, like \$500--I don't know what the price was, but whatever it was--like \$500 for the chickens and their pens, and he said, "Oh, too much, too much. Two fifty [\$250]." And they kept going down and he said, "All right, all right."

But he never wanted to charge anybody. And I know, like other doctors on the island used to get mad at him, because [patients would] say, "Oh, Dr. Waterhouse never charged me, and how come you're charging me?" (Chuckles) So they didn't like it. But we

did know, when they were going through his books afterwards, so many of them said, no charge, no charge, no charge, no charge, so.

Of course, when he was on the plantation, they didn't have to pay anyway, except, well, the lunas, anybody getting over a certain amount, I think, was supposed to pay. But it didn't matter, he just didn't charge.

But I know that he sent quite a few kids away to school, so he must have had some money. Well, I know he sent [Dr.] Sau Yee Chang to school, and he lived in the banana patch in Hanapepe. But he was a smart, alert boy, and so my father said, "When you grow up, I want you to be a doctor," or something. And so he became a dentist. After he got to making money himself, he turned around and sent each of his brothers to school, so they all became either doctors or dentists.

WN: So was that common for him to send children of his patients to school?

FB: A few of them. He couldn't send them all, but he sent, yes, several Japanese boys. I don't even remember what their names were, because by that time I was away at school myself, but I know that he sent several of them.

WN: People told me that your father was a very compassionate, generous man.

FB: Yeah, yeah, he was. And he didn't charge--you know, the rents in Koloa, oh, were like five, ten, fifteen dollars a month, at the most. The beach house, he rented that for quite a long time. So we couldn't go to the beach house anymore because he'd rented it to them. And they were paying two dollars and a half [\$2.50] a month, I know. And yet, the husband was making good money because he was a salesman for Kaua'i Motors. And Lihu'e Motors, I guess. It was Lihu'e Motors. But he just didn't like to make anybody pay. (Chuckles)

WN: So there were some tenants who never paid, who didn't pay their rents? Their lease rent?

FB: Well, I know that this [man] hadn't, he was only paying \$2.50 a month. After Dad died [in 1948], Mother wanted to get the beach house back, she wanted to live there, because my brother and [FB's brother-in-law] Bob Watts had [sub]divided up the old orchard where all those fruit trees were. So she wanted to go down to the beach then because she didn't like it with all those houses in there, instead of the old yard. You know, it used to be a big yard, and there was a big pasture in back. And so she was just surrounded by all these houses and so she wanted to go live at the beach. But they wouldn't move out. And then they were, oh, three or four months behind. Just with the \$2.50, I think they just forgot or something, and they didn't pay. So then we finally, after Dad died--he wouldn't have ever made them go out, but Mother wanted to

go down there, so then we finally got them out.

WN: I see. So after your dad died in 1948 . . .

FB: Yes.

WN: . . . then that's when they started to subdivide?

FB: Yes, after he . . .

WN: Who was in charge of the estate after he died?

FB: Well, Bob Watts [husband of FB's sister, Marjorie], who's coming [to FB's home] today. (Chuckles)

WN: Oh, I see.

FB: My mother [was given] very little to live on. She didn't really have enough so she'd go and borrow up at the bank. And that's how she sold that place where the [Kōloa Missionary] Church is now. I mean, you know, that church there, there used to be a big monkeypod tree, and during the Hurricane [Iwa] it blew down. And so she sold it, and she sold it for just enough money to pay off what she'd borrowed from the bank. And we didn't know she was going to do that. We wouldn't have wanted her to sell, but she did.

WN: When were you born?

FB: I was born in 1911. April 16, 1911.

WN: In Kōloa?

FB: In Kōloa.

WN: I see. So when you were born, where was your house located?

FB: We were in the hospital house. Afterwards we called it the hospital house because when he [father] left the plantation--do you want to hear that story, about the plantation? Or did I tell it to you?

WN: Maybe you can tell me again.

FB: Yeah. Well, it was because Jack Moir [John T. Moir, Jr.] was in there [as Kōloa Plantation manager from 1922 to 1933], and he got mad at my father because my father stuck up for [his cousin] Charlie [Charles Atwood] Rice. [Moir, who in 1932 was elected chairman of the Kaua'i Republican County Committee, was an opponent of the Charles Rice faction of the party.]

WN: What were they [i.e., Rice] running for?

FB: Local senator.

WN: Territorial?

FB: Yes, yes, yes. So they fired him [i.e., the plantation fired Dr. Waterhouse in 1932 for supporting Charles Rice].

I told you that every time he had a vacation, instead of taking a vacation, you know, just to have fun, why, he would go back to Mayo's [i.e., the Mayo Clinic] and brush up, or University of Chicago, you know, where Rush Medical was, and go to attend classes. Bringing everything up to date, because they were using different methods and different medicines and everything. [Someone] told me that in going over his books that he had there at the hospital, his accounts and all, he said that it was amazing to him, when they didn't even know a certain thing. He said that they didn't discover that or know about it until years after his [Waterhouse's] time, and yet he just instinctively seemed to do the right thing. He treated the person, I mean the child, or whoever it was, in the way that he said they're doing now, but they didn't know about it in his time. And how he just seemed to know.

But he was a good diagnostician, except when it came to himself. (Chuckles) And when he tried to diagnose himself, he was--you know, he [once] had a patient that had spinal meningitis, or something. And he [Waterhouse] woke up one morning and he had a lame neck. He turned over on his side and was sure he was dying of spinal meningitis. He wasn't a hypochondriac at all, but it was just that if he'd been exposed to something, he would think that he had it.

And I remember Dad telling me one time, that when he'd just delivered the baby and when the baby didn't breathe, even after he was spanked, he said something told him to turn it on the other side, and so he turned the baby on its other side and it started to cry.

WN: Was your father considered a good doctor?

FB: I think so, yes. And the other doctors, also, he wanted to get. He got the first dentist over here, and he got a pathologist, Dr. [A. M.] Eklund, over here because the other doctors that they had, they could do simple urinalysis or things they could do themselves, but when it came to blood diseases, and things that way, why, they'd have to go to Honolulu. And so he thought it would be better if we had one on Kaua'i, so he got Dr. Eklund.

WN: Who was a pathologist.

FB: Who was a pathologist, yeah. And he also [tried to get] an eye, ear, nose, and [throat doctor, but] the other doctors screamed. They wouldn't let him [i.e., the specialist] take the medical exam in Honolulu in order to [practice]. If you've come from away, you have to take a test. And they wouldn't pass anybody else. Because the doctors were afraid that specialists would take away the tonsil cases and all that they'd been taking care of. And so they put up a

big squawk so they wouldn't pass him in Honolulu. So he wasn't able to get the eye, ear, nose and throat man down [to Kōloa].

WN: You were telling me that your father lost his job on the plantation because he supported Charlie Rice.

FB: Yeah.

WN: He [Charles Rice] was a Democrat?

FB: Yes.

WN: And plantation management was generally Republican?

FB: Yes. Well, no, I think that he [Charles Rice] was [a Republican] too, at the time. He's the one they used to call the mugwump because he went on one side and then the other, then he changed and became a Democrat [in 1936] after [President Franklin] Roosevelt came in. Yeah, that's when the islands really became Democrat. Before that, it was just universal that everybody was a Republican. And that's because of the tariff. They kept the tariff on sugar so that they wouldn't get it more cheaply from Cuba, or somewhere else. But with the high tariff, it didn't pay to get the sugar from Cuba. But anyway, it was because of Charlie, really, that he lost his job.

WN: What year was this?

FB: That was in, oh, let's see, 1928 [1932].

WN: And after he lost his job at Kōloa, where did he . . .

FB: Well, then he just had private practice. Now, a mission church [Kōloa Missionary Church], or something, they call it, he made that into a hospital.

WN: You mean, your house?

FB: In our house. But by that time, we had moved over into the big old house, which is all torn down now. It was the old house where my grandmother had grown up, and had been a girls' school. So we had moved over there, so he went back and he turned the other [house] into a hospital.

WN: So he remained in Kōloa even though he wasn't the plantation doctor anymore.

FB: That's right. Just in private practice.

WN: I see. And who took his place on the plantation?

FB: [Marvin] Brennecke. Dad had had him fill in, you see. Whenever he went on a vacation, why, he always got somebody to take his place. And so when he first came back, he was so pleased, because he saw

that they had built a nurse's cottage. And then found out that he didn't have a job that very same day. Why, they called him in and said that he had been replaced, and he was too old, and so on. I mean, they just used that as an excuse, but . . .

WN: In 1928 [1932]?

FB: Yeah. So.

WN: So when Dr. Brennecke came, where did he practice?

FB: Well, so then he took over Dad's practice.

WN: Where was his office?

FB: Right where Dad had over there. See, when they put up the nurse's cottage, they also made a dispensary over there. Because before that, it had been at our house, I mean, right up there next to Fuji, where Fuji and Yamada, Dan Yamada, lived. And that's where Asano May was born. But Dan Yamada didn't like to work for anybody, and so Dad gave him a place uptown. And that place where the fish pond was became Yamada's house. There were rooms behind. The front part was---oh, then they made a store out of it. Yeah, they had a liquor store and also place to eat. I remember going up there and having lunch.

WN: Was that near [Tadao] Kawamoto's barbershop?

FB: Yes, yes. It was just above that, you know. It's right as you come down, almost, you know, it's right where Sueoka's [store] is now.

WN: That area, yeah. How did your dad communicate to plantation laborers? Was he pretty good at pidgin?

FB: Oh, yes, yes. He spoke some Japanese. And I know I can remember him saying to little kids, "Dare ga ichiban kawaii?" "Who do you like the best?" And he wanted them to say, "You."

(Laughter)

FB: But they didn't. (Laughs) Because lots of the parents used to scare the children. They'd say, "The doctor's going to get you," or something like that. And so he didn't want them to be afraid of him.

WN: You were talking about the orchard in your yard?

FB: Yeah.

WN: What kind of trees were there?

FB: Every fruit tree that would grow here. That was my grandmother's father. He was Dr. James W. Smith. And he loved growing things,

and so he planted every fruit tree, he tried them all. Even tried apples, but, of course, they won't grow here because it's not cold enough. But he had momi apples, star apples, rose apples. He had two types of star apples. I know the little kids used to call them creams, I don't know. But when you cut them in half, and that's the way we'd have them for breakfast, these black seeds were inside in the shape of a star. And so, I don't know whether we called them that or whether everybody called them star apples, but. And then there were rose apples. For a while, then the doctor lived in the old. . . . Was it Teves' place? And the dispensary was up there by where the theater had been. The old theater burned down [in 1936], but it's in that yard. Then the man that owned the theater lived back there.

WN: Oh, Mr. [Manuel] Teves?

FB: Yes.

WN: I see. So today, there's a clinic in there, a medical clinic [i.e., Kōloa Clinic]. Is that what you're talking about? Right where the old mill used to be?

FB: Yeah, yeah. Yes. Is there one still there now?

WN: There's a clinic there, yes.

FB: Oh! Oh, that's right, that's where Ikey goes. My husband [Isaac Brandt]. (Chuckles) Yeah, that's right.

WN: What was it like growing up in Kōloa?

FB: What was it like?

WN: Mm hmm [yes].

FB: Oh, it was wonderful. I mean, when I think back on it, I feel sorry for kids that grew up anyplace else. (Chuckles) We had that great big yard to play in and, as I told you, we were very, very shy. And then these Haole kids that went to Līhu'e School, they all played together after school because they lived in Līhu'e. And even though we had cousins that went there, why, we were like their "country cousins," somebody that, you know, was looked down upon. Because we didn't live in Līhu'e. (Chuckles) So, we played mostly with Iki's brothers, you know, Iki.

WN: Iki Moir?

FB: No, Iki---Ike.

WN: Ike. Okamura? [Three Kōloa residents mentioned in this transcript have similar nicknames: Richard Ikio "Ike" Okamura, son of Tasaburo Okamura, who was an employee of the Waterhouse family; Eric "Iki" (pronounced "Ee-kee") Moir, son of Kōloa Plantation manager Hector

Moir (1933-1948); and Isaac "Ikey" (pronounced "Eye-kee" Brandt, FB's husband.)

FB: Yeah, yeah. But when he was little, we used to call him Iki, because Ikio was his [middle] name. And so, Iki was short for that. And I know Taka, she was Takako but we called her Taka. And then the youngest one was--and I still think of her as [Fumi]-chan, because she was the youngest one, and her name was Fumiko. But we always said the chan afterwards on the youngest one's name, 'cause I thought that was all one word, you know, (chuckles). I thought her name was Fumi-chan. Wonder where she is now . . .

WN: Why were you so close to the Okamuras?

FB: Well, they lived in our [property], you see, they lived in a house. In fact, I think that house is still there. It's still back of the old house, where the old house was. That was the yardman's house [Ike Okamura's father, Tasaburo Okamura, was the yardman for the Waterhouse family]. And then there was a smaller cottage that was Fuji's, no, Fuji [Yamada] didn't live there. It was Haru, Haru lived there, and Natsu. Haru and Natsu, they were both Nishimuras. And then Oma [Nishimura Miyahara], Oma stayed with them, too, and she lived out there. And that's the one that's married to [Yoshiichi] Miyahara.

WN: Right, right.

FB: But their father was a fisherman and he lived in Kukui'ula.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: Well, you said that Mr. [Tasaburo] Okamura was a yardman.

FB: Yeah.

WN: How many people were actually employed by your father?

FB: Well, he had another---well, let's see. I know Fujita, but he lived at the halfway bridge, so I don't know how he got over there. Oh, he must have had a truck, that he drove over. And so he worked there.

WN: So what kind of things did you do, as a child, to have a good time? I know you mentioned playing out in the big yard . . .

FB: Yes. Well, you see, we read a great deal, because there was no TVs, of course, in those days. In fact, we didn't even have a radio until we were grown. I know that Yamada had one, Dan Yamada. A crystal set. No, no, it was his brother. He had a very nice

younger brother. And so we went up there to listen to his crystal set, you know, the radio. But we didn't have one. And so we read books, and we listened to records. But Dad's Edison records were always the classical ones. And they came in boxes, like that, I know they had nymphs dancing in the woods on the covers of them (chuckles). And they were tied with ribbons, and those were the thick records. They were about that thick, the Edison ones . . .

WN: About a quarter-inch thick?

FB: Yeah. We didn't have to change the needles on that. With the Victor ones, the thin ones, the needles, we'd have to change all the time, because they would get scratched or something. But that diamond disc thing, we had to change the whole head of the phonograph to put those on. And I know that, you know, we had to sit down and keep quiet when Dad played those. We could listen, but we couldn't talk, you know, or make any noise.

And I told you about the family prayers in this ladder-back koa chair. And you know, he'd get carried away and make a long prayer. When you're kneeling down, why, kids get restless, (chuckles) you know. So I was just seeing if I could stick my head between the--had these, the back of the chair, you know, slats, or something. And so I did and I slid it in this way, and then, of course, I turned my head and I couldn't get it out.

(Laughter)

FB: So I was kicking and (laughs) I was making all this racket while he was trying to pray. And so, after he finished praying, the first thing he did was spank me because I was bent over there with my head stuck in the chair. And then he took it like this and then slid it right out. But I thought they were going to have to cut my head off or something. (Chuckles)

WN: What was Christmas like at home?

FB: Oh, that was fun. We had sliding doors--this was still in that little house, not the big house--the one that's the [Kōloa Missionary] Church now. We couldn't open our presents until after we'd had breakfast. And so the doors were closed, and I know Asano May was peeping through the crack in the door, and she said, "Oh, mynah bird, mynah bird!" And it was a canary in a cage that somebody had given us for Christmas. My grandfather [William Waterhouse] used to give us beautiful toys. I know my first toy electric stove was one my grandfather gave me. And he used to bring us beautiful dolls. And he gave Bill a wagon, I remember, a red wagon he had. And then he got him a bicycle. And so those toys, that's when Grandpa still had money, before he lost his money. After he lost his money, then he didn't have anything. But that's when he kept wanting to take these trips back and forth up to the Mainland with Dad paying for it. (Chuckles)

WN: How did he lose his money?

FB: In the stock market.

WN: Did your dad lose money in the stock market crash [1929], too?

FB: Yeah, he did. 'Cause he'd gone into stocks, too. And he lost quite a bit.

WN: What about the Fourth of July?

FB: Well, that was their [wedding] anniversary. And Dad, he'd get from the plantation the use of the train and the cane cars, empty train cars. And so, he'd get the people, anybody that wanted to go down to Po'ipū would all pile on the train. Oh, that was fun. You couldn't get clear to Po'ipū, but it was a walk after that. You walked quite a ways, but not terribly long. And then when they went to go back, I remember, the train would whistle, and then everybody'd start walking back up to go back on the train.

But Mother had to stay home and watch phones. That was their anniversary, and she stayed home watching phones while Dad had this picnic. And he furnished--yeah, he had a big old truck that he had used when he had Pānau, with the pineapples and the cane. And so that was just parked out in the backyard. And so that's the one we kids would play covered wagon in and everything when Iki was a little boy. Iki Okamura.

But we'd read these books and then play them. We played Scottish chiefs and we played, oh, yeah, Treasure Island, and all those things. And the Last of the Mohicans, I know.

(Interview interrupted by FB's cat, then resumes.)

WN: So your father would actually be the one who planned, who would be in charge of this entire Fourth of July . . .

FB: Yeah, he'd furnish the drink. He'd buy a big jug of syrup or something and mix it, and then he'd have ice. And then, he had a great big round barrel, I guess it was like that, all full of juice. That, and a big tin can of, or several of them, of senbei. And he'd have juice and senbei. And then they'd bring their own lunches. Packed lunches, the people that came.

WN: Yeah, I know lot of the old-time residents remember that and they . . .

FB: They did.

WN: . . . they remember it fondly.

FB: Yeah, yeah.

WN: In fact, I've seen some pictures of that.

FB: Really?

WN: You folks riding on the train on Fourth of July.

FB: Oh, yeah. (Chuckles)

WN: Nice. I didn't ask you about your mom.

FB: Yeah.

WN: What type of woman was she?

FB: Well, I know she was in the Girl Reserves. That's the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]. It's like the Girl Scouts, except this was Girl Reserves. And she had a group, and then she'd go up to summer camp. They had a summer camp up in the highlands. That was above, let's see, between Kalāheo and 'Ele'ele, there's a road going up in the hills. Back up in there somewhere. We called it Camp Wahiawa. I guess, that was in back of Wahiawa from--yeah, Wahiawa was mauka, you know, up in the hills. Up there.

WN: Was she strict?

FB: Well, she was away from home a lot. So we were really brought up by Haru and Natsu and Fuji. Natsu was the fun one because she'd---Haru and Fuji weren't stern, but they were busy, and I know they used to chase us out of the kitchen because we'd always go looking for something to eat. We weren't supposed to eat between meals, (chuckles) but we did.

WN: What kind of foods did they cook? Mostly American food?

FB: Yeah, they cooked American food for us, but they cooked Japanese food for themselves. They always had a big pot of rice on the stove. But we loved Japanese food. And so it was a treat when Mother'd have a party, we'd have to eat out in the kitchen, we couldn't eat with the company. And that's when Natsu would go and peek through--there was a passway [i.e., a pass-through], it was curved like this, like a post office. In the old days they used to have post office windows like that. And then it had a piece that stuck out, where they'd slide the trays through, so that they didn't have so far to walk from the kitchen, carrying trays. Then they had to go down some steps and. . . .

(Cat interrupts the interview. Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: Are you okay? You want to take a break?

FB: Well, it's just I have emphysema from smoking. (Chuckles) That's why I'm short of breath.

WN: Let's take a break.

FB: Yeah, just for a minute.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: Well, you were talking about the parties, and the little window.

FB: Oh, yes, peeking through the window. Yeah, that's when Natsu was peeking. And, oh, she was telling about how they [i.e., guests] ate corn just like rats, she said, 'cause they picked it up in their fingers and eat it like this, corn on the cob. And (chuckles) so anyway, I went behind her, and I pulled open this little sliding door, you see, where this went through and where they'd put the trays. Then there was the pantry down there where we kept the dishes and all sorts of things.

And then there was a electric button that was supposed to be by the head of the table, and my father would--when we were through with one course--why, we'd start out with papaya, then it was time for the cereal, and then eggs. We had to eat a lot in those days.

(Laughter)

FB: Then he'd step on the button and they'd come and take away the--and bring the next course out. And so, during dinner parties they had, oh, they started out with a fruit cocktail, then they'd have a fish course. Mother had these shells that they'd put creamed fish in and cracker crumbs on the top of it. And they'd have that. And then they'd have the meal, the big meal, and then they'd have salad, and then dessert last.

WN: Salad would be after the meal?

FB: After the big meal, the salad would be separate. I don't know what they called the first one which was the fruit cocktail or something. Or sometimes it would be avocado cut up in little cubes with catsup or chili sauce or something on it. And then came the fish course, then came the main course, and then the salad course, and then the dessert. It took quite a while to eat all that. (Laughs) That's why most of the Rices were fat. Charlie and Willie and all of them.

WN: Who attended these parties?

FB: Oh, whoever. Now, at Thanksgiving, Mother always had the ones who had no homes, like, you see, they'd employ young men on the plantation who were unmarried, you know, and they'd live in the boardinghouse. And so she'd invite them, and she'd invite the nurses from the hospital, and she'd invite schoolteachers. In those days, most of them came from the Mainland. And we had some, like Mrs. [Margaret Miller] Blake was a schoolteacher, but, many of them in those days came from the Mainland, and so they had no families, you know. So she'd invite ones that didn't have families to have

Thanksgiving with.

And sometimes there'd be such a crowd, that they'd have to put the table catty-corner, you know, instead of straight. It would be that side and that's why, this thing that you stepped onto, buzzer, I guess it was, why, that little knob that was on it could be pulled out. But sometimes if somebody else would accidentally step on it, they'd have to look and see whether we were through or not. And you know when they put it like that, why, the knob would come in front of somebody else, and they would accidentally step on it, not knowing, you know, that they were doing it. So that's why they looked.

But when I pulled this sliding door open, (chuckles) why, then she said, "Florence!" and she chased me out of the kitchen.

WN: So, the bachelors, from the plantation . . .

FB: The bachelors.

WN: . . . that were invited, were they mostly Japanese? Filipino?

FB: No, no, no. Some of them were Japanese, some of them were Haoles, the Mainland Haole guys that came down. I know Maitland Dease, the one I married [FB's first husband], was living over there in the boardinghouse, too, when I first met him.

WN: So you went to Lihue English-standard school? Is that where you . . .

FB: Yes. Just till the eighth grade. My sister went to Kaua'i High School. She went all the way through. I went one year, to Kaua'i High School, a year and a half, because in the middle of the year, we went up to my grandfather and grandmother's [Waterhouse] golden wedding [anniversary]. And, so there was a big family reunion of all these kids that were married and lived in other places.

WN: Where was the reunion?

FB: In Pasadena. And so we went up to Pasadena. They put us in school up there. I went to Pasadena High School for a few months, before school was out. Let's see, I think that was February, was Grandpa and Grandma's wedding anniversary. [William Waterhouse married Melicent P. Smith on February 24, 1876.] And so from February to the end of the school year, why, Marge went to John Muir, which was a junior high, and then I went to the regular high [school]. And then it was after that, that they sent me, gave me my choice of Girls Collegiate School, or going to stay with the Halls. He was supposed to be a minister, but (chuckles) the way he preached, he took everybody's faith away. If they had any faith, why, he spoiled it for them. Because he was really an agnostic, not an atheist, but he was an agnostic.

But, I knew them, and they had some little kids, and I used to love little kids. In fact, there's pictures of me carrying babies on my back [in Kōloa]. You know, they have kind of a sleeveless kimono thing that they wore, and then they tied the baby. I know how, I can even do it now. You put it under the baby's arms and then you put the baby on your back. And then you bring it around, crosses over like this, and then the bottom part holds the baby's rump, you see. So, his head was up and his hands were free, but he was tied. And so they went to work and everything with the baby tied on them. And so I wanted to carry babies like that. And Fujimoto at the hospital had--Kazuko was their first child. And she was a baby. So I carried Kazuko like that. Fuji would let me carry (Asano May) like that. But after she got running around, she'd go out, if the cows would get in the yard, she went out and grabbed the cow's tail and was swinging on the cow's tail. And that was really dangerous because the cow could have kicked her, you know, or something, but she wasn't afraid of anything. But she was spoiled. And she'd lay down on the floor and kick her heels if she didn't get what she wanted. But most Japanese children, till the next one came along, they would be spoiled. But then when another one came, then the new baby would get spoiled, and they'd have to help with the other kids.

WN: So you went to Līhu'e School until eighth grade, then you went to Kaua'i High School for a year [and a half].

FB: Yeah.

WN: Then you went to Pasadena High School [in 1927].

FB: Yeah, for half a year.

WN: Then where did you go?

FB: And then that's where I went back and stayed with the Halls in [Albion,] Michigan. Because . . .

WN: Oh, this would be in Michigan?

FB: Yeah.

WN: Is that where you graduated?

FB: Yes. [In 1928.]

WN: And after that graduation, you went to college?

FB: Then the next year I went home. Dad wouldn't let me go home that first year, so I was there two school years at the Halls. And so I had to stay there. And that's when you got those terrible electric storms, you know, thunder and lightning. And I remember once when it would hit a tree right in front of us, or something, and it was just crash! Bang! And I don't even remember getting out of bed. I just went whsssh, and I was out in the hall, the next thing I knew.

And-I think the Halls came out. I guess they heard me run out there.

But, oh, I hated it back there. I didn't want to tell them, because it was my own choice, you see. I'd chosen to go there so I tried to tell [FB's parents] them just the good things, and they didn't know. And then the Halls wanted my sister to go and stay there, but they [FB's parents] wouldn't send her, 'cause after I came back and said what it was like. I was just like a servant, you know. They had made me take these kids, and they had nothing but coveralls. She said, oh, it was too much trouble to iron dresses for the girls and suits for the boys, so they were just in coveralls the whole time, and she didn't iron those. But Dad sent me spending money, and I'd spend my spending money buying dresses for the girls, and little suits for the boys. Because I felt that when they went to church and everything, they should not go in coveralls. (Chuckles)

But he [Mr. Hall] preached up there, too. Just for the money, he said, because he got extra money by preaching. But he taught history at Albion College. There was a college in that town, too, besides the high school. So he taught there.

WN: You said it was your choice to go there. What were the other options?

FB: Well, the other option was the Girls Collegiate School. And that was in California. It was in Glendora. And, see, my brother went to Montezuma. That was in Los Gatos, outside of--there's a . . . What was the other town? Well, where Stanford [University] is.

WN: Palo Alto?

FB: Palo Alto. Yeah, and Los Gatos is beyond that. But that's where his--Montezuma School for Boys is where he went. And so they thought that because he went to a boarding school that I should go to one. But they said I could either go to the girls collegiate school. I know they had the booklet and everything on it. I looked at all the pictures, but, I didn't know those kids. I mean, I was shy (chuckles) and I didn't know anybody else that was going there. And so I chose to go and stay with the Halls 'cause they'd invited me to go there, so that I could see the change of seasons. And that's what I did. I did see the snow and the fall . . .

WN: What other options? Could you have stayed in Hawai'i?

FB: No.

WN: Why not?

FB: I don't know because. . . Oh, they let Marge stay, though. She stayed the whole time. She went all the way through Kaua'i High School.

WN: What about, you know, like Punahou [School], or . . .

FB: Well, Dad had a very bad opinion of Punahou, which was very misconceived. But he thought that that's where kids learn to smoke and put on makeup and all that stuff. Of course, we eventually did it anyway. I mean, we eventually wore makeup and we eventually--oh, he thought makeup was terrible. You put lipstick on, that was awful.

(Laughter)

WN: I see. So staying in Hawai'i was no option. How did you feel about that?

FB: Oh, I wanted to stay. I didn't want to go up there, but I had to. When they left, why, they wanted to put me in school, you see. When they'd been up to the family reunion, they went back and they took Marge with them but they left me up there. And so I had to go either to a boarding school or else to stay with the Halls, so I chose the Halls.

WN: And so after you graduated from school in Albion you went to Pomona College in California.

FB: Then I went to Pomona College, yeah.

WN: You graduated from there?

FB: No. I got married [to Maitland Dease in 1931] instead. I went just two years there.

WN: When did you eventually move back here, to Kōloa?

FB: Oh, well, we were at McBryde [Plantation], and then McBryde was supposed to merge with Makaweli. And then that didn't go through and so then they had to cut back. I think this was, although Hawai'i wasn't supposed to have ever had any depression, they'd had it on the Mainland, but not out here. But, so, well, I still lived at home. You know, in the summertimes, and everything. Because that's when we'd have horses. And we'd go to a party and then come home and get out the horses and go up Pānau to watch the sunrise.

WN: You said you worked for Kaua'i Motors? When was that?

FB: Let's see, what year was that? That was before I married George Worts. And (pause) I think 1950. I think it was then, yeah. Or maybe before. I know I was working at the post office when the war ended. See, war with Japan ended in '46, was it?

WN: Forty-five.

FB: Forty-five, yeah. And I was working at the post office then.

WN: Which post office?

FB: Kōloa post office. But that was in Dad's building, you know. The old post office, that's before they moved uptown.

WN: To where they are now?

FB: Well, no, not where they are now. But where they used to be, part of the bank, you see. The bank was on the back and then the post office was on the side. And then they finally built a new one, post office, separate from the bank. 'Cause the bank wanted the whole building, which it has now, the whole building. So the post office then built where it is now.

WN: And before that, when you worked, where was the post office located?

FB: It was in Dad's building. Yeah, it was right after the [Chevron] service station. There was a (pause) the road, yeah, there was [Johnny] Awa store, and then. . . .

WN: So, near where Sueoka's [store] is.

FB: Yeah, but little further down. It was on the other side of the river [i.e., Waikomo Stream] than Sueoka's. But, and then Sueoka's bought theirs, so that's not part of the [Waterhouse] estate.

WN: So you worked in the post office, and then you worked in Kaua'i Motors. Mostly . . .

FB: Yeah, but the post office, I just worked when they [full-time employees] were having vacations.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 15-66-2-87; SIDE ONE

FB: It's my home. I always still feel that Kōloa's my home. After they built in there, it took me a long time to look on that side of the street. I'd always look the other way when I passed because I hated to see the old driveway with the royal palms, that was all gone and just houses built in there.

WN: There was a nice picket fence in front of your house, too.

FB: Yes, yes, there was, with a stone wall behind it. But the fence was on the outside, and I know that's how I found out that one of the horses I had was a jumper. Because she was tied to a painter's horse. You know, they're like a sawhorse except big and tall, where they could stand up on it. And it had legs, like this. And anyway they used that when they were painting houses. Instead of stepladders, they'd use those. And she was tied to one of those,

and something startled her--Lehua, that was her name. She pulled back on the horse, the painter's horse moved too, and that scared her all the more, and so then she whirled around and that [i.e., the painter's horse] got all bashed to pieces except one big, heavy leg of it that she was tied to. And she ran out in the front yard and jumped over the gate--the gate was closed--and jumped over it cleanly. But she had this big lumber thing tied to her and that caught on one of the pickets, you know, between the pickets it caught, and that slowed her down so that we could catch her and bring her back. Then, after that, why, Bill [FB's brother] would take boxes, wooden boxes, and put them up and then have a bamboo across it and jump her. And then he'd make it higher and found out she was a beautiful jumper. We got her from [M.] Tashima, and Tashima always had race horses, but his race horses never won. They would come in second or third, they'd place, but they never won.

WN: Where would they race?

FB: Over in Waipouli, there was a regular racecourse over there. And I know when the plantation had their races, the plantations would race against each other, and they'd always have the finals over there. But in just practicing for it, why, I didn't want to run them on macadam, so we ran them in the dirt roads leading into the cane field, and so I would take 'em down that, beyond the stables. The stables were in Wahiawa. And then I kept Ipo there. We had Lehua there, too. Then Bill sold Lehua, Then we could see her, though, from a distance. And there was a camp---see, when you're going from Kōloa to 'Ele'ele, before you get to the [Kaua'i Pineapple Company] cannery [in Lāwa'i], there was a road back in there, I would run Ipo on that, too.

But she was really a quarterhorse. She was shaped, I mean, she was not what she really was. Her father was a thoroughbred and her mother was just a cow pony, Hawaiian cow pony. But she was short coupled and she could turn on a dime. She'd have made a wonderful polo pony because they have to turn quickly. She was a wonderful horse, I've never had a horse like her. And a very easy trot, you know. Gallops are always easy, but when they're just trotting, they can shake your back teeth off (chuckles) if you don't know how to, unless you post, you know, stand up in the stirrups. But she had such an easy trot that even when she was trotting, you know, it was very easy.

WN: How many acres, then, was your [father's] entire [estate]--well, with the pasture and the orchard?

FB: Yeah, boy, I don't know. I really have no idea. Iki would probably be able to, Iki Okamura.

WN: So was it sort of like from all the way to the [Kaua'i] Mortuary? That area?

FB: Almost to the mortuary. No, it ended right by Kōloa School.

There's a road going down there [Waikomo Road]. I think it got pointed for the Catholic church or something. I think there's also a Mormon church down there. So it was that road, and from that road to uptown, yeah.

WN: Just a few more questions. I want to ask you about Hurricane Iwa [which struck Kaua'i in 1982]. I know you were living in Po'ipū at the time.

FB: Well, I was living in Kukui'ula side.

WN: Kukui'ula.

FB: Yeah.

WN: Tell me about what happened that day.

FB: Oh, boy. I wonder if I can.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: So, Hurricane Iwa.

FB: Oh, yeah. Well, the sirens went off, and then police came by to make sure that everybody was out [of the area]. And I wouldn't go. And I said we had these great big pianos, two of them. I mean, one was a baby grand, and then the other one was that great big old one that came around the Horn. That was a grand piano. But it was very Tin Panny. Mother used to try to get it tuned every time she had the one in the living room tuned. This was out on the deck. But it was a heavy, heavy, heavy thing. And I know when they were putting carpeting out there, 'cause we used that as a dining room, the deck. And we had rocking chairs that had, oh, I think there were three pune'es out there. So you can see how big it was.

I was married to Ikey Brandt at that time and he kept wanting to go. He was scared and he wanted to get out. But I said, "No, we'll be perfectly safe here." But the big banyan tree in front went down. The water had been circling it. We saw the lawn furniture float away, and we just kind of laughed because it was junk already, I mean, it had to be replaced. So we didn't mind that and still thought, you know, we were perfectly safe. Till suddenly the--we had, there was louvers part way, there was about three panes, one on this end and two on this side, with louvered windows in between, with shutters. And the big pane glass window suddenly just, like a piece of cellophane, it just bubbled. And they kept saying, shattering glass with hurricanes, they always talked about that, so I thought, well, with a blanket we could keep the shattering glass off us. But Ikey didn't [stay], he went uptown [i.e., Kōloa]. But I stayed and I had cats with me. So then. . . .

WN: So you were right on the beach? Right on the ocean?

FB: Right on the ocean. And one side was the bay, there's a little bay in there, and then the other one was the deep ocean. Because I remember standing, where the little old white house used to be, that was the one that was built by my great-grandfather [James W. Smith]. And he said in his diaries, at the seashore--we always said "beach," but he said "seashore"--that he'd built it for the children, you know, to go down to the seashore. And it didn't even have glass, it had shutters with a stick. You know, you poked it up and then stuck it on something. Then after that, of course, Mother had it remodeled, and she put glass in and all of that. But, that was the last thing I saw.

Then finally, these trees and everything went and it was just like a mountain behind where the car was, so I couldn't get the car out. It was in the garage. And then, in order to get to the guest house, that was up on stilts, you had to walk up stairs to get to it, and there was a little tiny deck on it. So, then we saw the whole lanai just disappear, like that.

WN: Because of the surf or the wind?

FB: Well, it was the surf with us. There was wind, too, and the wind was causing the surf. But it just took it out like that. Then after that washed away, why, then we looked behind us, and coming down one hallway where the guest rooms were--and that's where we were using, Mother had hers on the other end--and there was, oh, water, deeper than this, about like that high.

WN: Three feet?

FB: Yeah. Coming down that hallway. And so, then, he said, "Oh, boy, we've gotta get out." So, we went out, but we had to climb over this mountain of debris that was back there to get to the guest house. And we thought we'd be safe in the guest house, because it was up on stilts. But then, he'd [Ikey] gone out, Ikey came back and got me, he just dragged me by the arm. "You've gotta go." And he saved my life. Otherwise, I'd have been out to sea with the rest of it. And so, the cat, one cat, the Persian, jumped out of his arms and ran across the street. I don't want to tell this part of it (chuckles) though.

WN: Okay, that's all right.

FB: It's about losing two of the cats, 'cause I shut them up in the. . . . So, the falling trees would [not] get 'em and not dreaming that [the guest house] was going to go out, too. But, everything went.

After we could get back down there, several days [later] and looked all over and called and called, but I'm afraid they [i.e., the cats] went out to sea. I still kept hoping that somehow they'd maybe washed ashore down someplace further down, but I never found them. So, I guess they went out. But I wake up at night and think about

that, too. I can't stand it.

Well, anyway, then we went---(Doris Sugano) had called earlier and said, "If it gets bad down there, why don't you come up and stay with me?" And so, that's the first place we hit when we came uptown. And so we got out and stayed with (Doris). Louis Sugano, do you know him?

WN: Um hmm [yes].

FB: Yeah, at Doris's house, Doris Sugano, that we stayed with. Then the next day, why, we went up to Ikey's house and just stayed up there. But that first night, and during that night, I mean, the wind was blowing a gale, that's when the big monkeypod tree in the churchyard blew down. And her, she had a greenhouse, glassed-in greenhouse. And that just blown, smashed, and blown to bits. And then the next day, we tried to go down to the beach to see, but the police wouldn't let us. They said there was electric wires and everything down.

WN: So you couldn't go down Po'ipū Road.

FB: So we couldn't go down and see what had happened. But Oliver came that night and told us. He went to Sugano's and said that everything is gone. Everything. Meaning our houses, the ones on the ocean. And just beyond up there, where the Los lived right behind us, that place wasn't touched. See, just that little distance away. But it's everything that was on the beach. And, you see, all three of our houses were on the beach.

WN: They washed away?

FB: They all washed out.

WN: Like the piano and everything went out?

FB: Yes. The piano, everything. Never even saw the piano, unless it was under that great mound of stuff. But we went back about three days after it had happened. And by that time, the road gang had been down and gotten most of the--there was still a place where you could get around it. Oh, they disconnected the electricity, that's what they did. And so, we could get past it and get down to the beach. It was then that we could see. There was Mother's chimney, the chimney of her fireplace was lying on its side. Not where the house was at, it had moved quite a way away. Then there was---we had, I guess you'd call them cesspools, I don't know, dug underground. They put cement. I remember these big round things of cement, you know, that they put in there. And it was a cesspool. These cement things, we saw those left and Mother's chimney, but lying on its side and away from the house. There was a little bit of cement from the garage, I think, or something, that was left, but that's all, nothing else.

But the looters, that was the terrible thing about it. Because even before the hurricane was over, they were looting down Po'ipū and all around. And they went down to our place, too. Now, the one that was in the stone house, that was gutted. There was a woman that had been renting that and she found her silver, but it was in the house, you see. It was inside the stone house. It had been washed in, but it hadn't washed away. But we never found Mother's, or any of her stuff. But it could have been picked up by other people, you see, before we could get down there.

WN: Must have been terrifying.

FB: Well, it was terrifying in the way that. . . . Yeah, it was like a nightmare, really, (chuckles) thinking back on it, yeah. The last thing I saw as I looked back was the white house--and that's the old one, you know, that was built by my grandfather--and that was down. There was the milo tree right in the sand. It wasn't growing in--partly dirt and partly sand, and it had gotten quite big. And the white house was down into that. I looked back and saw it. But the other places, and Webber's, was still standing. She called over and asked if we'd seen their house. And I said, well, when I left there, it was still standing. But, part of it. I've got pictures of it if you want to see 'em. Of the hurricane, after the hurricane, what was left.

WN: Yeah, I would like to see them.

FB: Yeah, I've got them right here.

WN: Well, let's just. . . . I'll turn off the tape recorder now.

FB: Yes, please.

WN: Okay? Let's end this. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

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